

KIRK IN THE HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
YOUTH & CONFIRMATION SUNDAY | 9:00 A.M. WORSHIP





A Note from Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

Welcome to Kirk in the Hills!

I want to welcome you, whether this place has long been home or you are finding your way here more recently, whether you come with deep conviction or quiet questions. It is a gift to gather together in worship.

Just Friday, I returned from the Alpha Course Leadership Conference at the Royal Albert Hall in London, along with a few Kirk leaders. It was a meaningful time of learning and reflection, and throughout it I was praying for you—for our shared life as a congregation, and especially for our growth in discipleship, engagement, and impact. Thank you for the many ways you support my family and me, and for your faithful prayers as we *chart the course together*, on the voyage Christ has called us to embark upon.

Today, we celebrate both Mother’s Day and Youth Sunday, a pairing that speaks beautifully to the life of faith across generations. I am deeply grateful for the way this church makes space for our young people to belong, to serve, and to grow as disciples in their own right. Your encouragement of them—as acolytes, Sunday School leaders, and volunteers—matters more than you may know. I also want to give thanks to Sarah Ford and our Children, Youth, and Family ministry, whose dedication has helped prepare this service. To our youth: thank you for your courage. To lead in worship, while still wrestling honestly with faith, is no small thing. Your witness strengthens us all.

On this Mother’s Day, I find myself reflecting with gratitude for the women who have shaped my own life in Christ—my mother and grandmothers, who nurtured faith from an early age; my sisters, who have blessed me; my wife, whose support is constant; and my daughter, who reminds me daily of the joy of the Lord. While each story is different, many of us have known the quiet, steadfast ways women have nurtured faith and life—as parents, mentors, teachers, and guides.

And yet, even beyond these gifts, we are reminded by the Holy Scriptures of God’s own steadfast care: a Father to the fatherless, and a mother to the motherless, who protects and gathers us with the tenderness of a mother bird. Even if a mother should forget the babe at her breast, the Prophet Isaiah says, God will never forget us nor forsake us.

For mothers and youth, the gift of this community, and God’s abiding love, let us offer our praise in this, God’s holy sanctuary.

In Christ,



A Note from Elder Jim Devlin

What a joy it is to worship together on this special day. Not only a day to celebrate our Mothers but also a day that our praise and thanksgiving is led by our youth. We savor the genuine and familiar but not quite trained voices. The carefully guided (by some amazing people BTW) but not dictated liturgy. Their "which way do I turn now?" looks of panic. This is a day to tear up a little and be very proud even if you don't know the youth involved. I've been blessed by seeing our youth leadership in action over the years, and it's nothing short of amazing.

Here's what I mean. This group of lay and ordained teachers and leaders' welcome young people every week that have Christian faith certainty spanning a huge spectrum, from no faith to great faith. And yet they somehow move them all along their faith journey. Including our graduating Confirmation class who will join Jesus's church today.

The apostle John says it best...

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.—3 John 1:4

Blessings and Happy Mother's Day,
Jim

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

9:00 a.m., Sanctuary

PRELUDE

Two Pieces

Andantino, S. Suzuki; Rigadoon, Purcell

Eva Estevez, cello

Minuet by L. Boccherini

Daniel Litkouhi, violin

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pierce Kupelian

OUR FAITH IN ACTION

Costa Rica High School Mission Trip Update

Tori Guettler

PRESENTATION | RECOGNITION TO SENIOR ACOLYTE CAPTAIN: Hannah Jakubiak

* *Please rise in body or spirit at the ringing of the tower bell.*

* INTROIT

This is the Day

Fijian Traditional Melody

This is the day that the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Confirmation Class of 2026

Read by Confirmands:

We see light, hope, and joy!

Congregation:

We bring heart, soul, mind, and body.

Read by Confirmands:

We share blessings and fears.

Congregation:

We bring faith and doubt.

Read by Confirmands:

We look around and see how we have been blessed.

Congregation:

We have no greater joy than seeing our children walking in the Truth.

Read by Confirmands:

With all that we are and all that we have, let us worship God together.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 14

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Annie Way

Almighty God of love and life abundant,
**In raising Jesus Christ from the dead,
you have broken the power of sin and death
and opened to us the way of everlasting life.**

Yet we confess that we are tempted, like the first disciples,
to be fearful and uncertain,
slow to believe the promise of new life,
quick to return to old patterns of sin and despair.

Forgive us, God of grace.

Breathe upon us your Holy Spirit,

that we may live as people of the Resurrection—

Fill us with Easter joy,
that we may proclaim with our lives
what we confess with our lips:
Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen.

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Lord, Have Mercy

John Merbecke



Lord, have mer-cy up-on us; Christ, have mer-cy up-on us; Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Charlize Jones

Friends, in the empty tomb,
God declares that nothing can separate us
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Friends, believe the good news:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!

* ACCLAMATION OF PRAISE 581

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI

WORD

WORD WITH CHILDREN AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Priyanca Skilton

Following the Word with the Children, children and youth will remain in worship with their family.

INVITATION HYMN

Come Together, Come and Hear!

Rev. Jasmine Smart (text), M. Biery (music)

Please join in singing...



Come to- geth-er, come and hear! Come to- geth-er, come and learn!



Come to- geth-er, come and hear; come to- geth-er, come and learn;



Al - le - lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

ANTHEM

For the Beauty of the Earth

Conrad Kocher

*For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies.
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God

Arabic Tune

Gracious God, you are the source of all light. By your Word you give light to the soul. Pour on us the source of your wisdom that we may hear your Word through Jesus Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Jonah 2:1-2

Tyler Webb

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 29:11-14

Joseph Ashoo

ANTHEM

The Earth is the Lord's

Hank Beebe

*The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof,
The world and they that dwell therein,
For he hath founded it upon the seas,
And established it upon the floods.*

St. Cecilia Choir

SCRIPTURE READING

John 14:27

Declan Field

SERMONETTE

From Fear to Faith

Hannah Jakubiak

PASTORAL CONCLUSION

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

THE SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez, Jim Devlin & Sarah Ford

PRESENTATION

Those being confirmed today are:

Declan Field, Ashley Jones, Evelyn Jones, Paige Locke,
Hajun Park, Harin Park

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

The Confirmands, mentors, and their parents will come forward and face the congregation as they are called.

QUESTIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez

Do you turn to Jesus Christ, and accept him as your Lord and Savior,
trusting in his grace and love? **(I do.)**

Trusting in the grace of God, do you turn from the ways of sin
that separate us from the love God? **(I do.)**

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying Christ's Word
and showing Christ's love? **(I will.)**

Will you be a faithful member of this congregation,
Sharing in our worship and work, through your prayers and gifts,
your study and service, and so fulfill your calling
to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? . . . **(I will)**

(to the congregation) Do we, members of this congregation, promise to support, nurture,
and sustain these newest members in the Christian journey?
(We do.)

PRAYER FOR THE CONFIRMANDS

Jim Devlin

*During the prayer, please offer a virtual "laying of hands" on the youth by extending your arm forward
as a symbol of touch.*

**Almighty God, we thank you that in your Son Jesus Christ you have
brought us to yourself, and that by the seal of your Holy Spirit you
have bound us to your service. As you bind these young people to
yourself through faith, renew in every worshiper here a commitment
to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Send forth these young people in
the power of your Spirit to perform the service you have set before
them. Amen.**

Following the prayer, the confirmands will be called one by one to the kneeler in the chancel.

WELCOME THE NEW MEMBERS

Sarah Ford

**With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you into Christ's Church to
share with us in his ministry, for we are all one in Christ.**

*** HYMN 698**

Take, O Take Me as I Am

TAKE ME AS I AM

(Please be seated after the hymn.)

THANKSGIVING

CALL TO OFFERING AND DEDICATION

Collin Graff

*Our giving is an offering to God. All offerings are part of our worship of God and are used to support the Kirk's
ministry. Text "KITH" to 73256 to give using your mobile device.*

OFFERTORY

Scatter the Joy

Ruth Artman

Scatter the joy!

Scatter the sunshine!

Scatter the faith and hope and glory he has given to you!

Spread it around!

Let the world resound with the sound!

Since love, his love has come your way!

Spread it today!

Scatter the sunshine!

Just listen to the sound of music on the soft summer air!

Can you gather it up, and put it in a song for people ev'rywhere?

Cantamus Choir

* DOXOLOGY (*Hymn 606*)

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him* all creatures here below;
Praise him* above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

* or *God*

PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Rami Almaqdasi; Vivian Flowers

SENDING

* RECESSIONAL HYMN 324

For All the Faithful Women

NYLAND

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION (*seated*)

Caroline Eriksen

POSTLUDE

Paraphrase on a Handel Chorus
(Thine Is the Glory)

Alexandre Guilmant



Autumn Jones, a 6th grader and Kirk Youth, submitted this piece of art in recognition of Youth Sunday. This piece was inspired by Isaiah 43:2.

INFORMATION ON TODAY'S SERVICES

Musicians: Carol Beth Litkouhi, Joyful Noise Choir director; Bobby DeLisle, Children and Youth Choir director; James Biery, organist.



Stephen Ministers are available for personal, confidential prayer in Melrose Chapel immediately following each service Sunday. If you or someone you know is in need of prayer please contact Nancy Lau at 248-835-6691. If you are interested in being connected with a Stephen Minister, please call Robin Brinks at 248-310-2034.



Feeling called to join the Kirk Church Family? Mercy Adams—Kirk Member, Stephen Minister, Usher, and staff support to New Member and Evangelism and Outreach & Mission Committees is here to guide you. Meet Mercy after Sunday Worship, during Coffee Hour or call/text her cell 248-631-4565 to RSVP to fellowship with Pastor Rami Almaqdas Wednesday April 29 6PM – 8PM or scan the QR code to register for the May 20th New Member Class.

Tour Kirk in the Hills each Sunday! Those interested in a brief tour are asked to meet in the Baptistry, to the right of the Chancel, after the 11:00 a.m. service. See an usher for direction or further details.

The flowers on the altar are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of her husband, James W. Clark, parents, Ray D. and Wayne Louise Eichler and sister, Marilyn Eichler Dewar by Barbara Eichler Clark and family.

Thank you to Bob Beck, Jim Devlin, and Dom Skilton for their dedication and commitment to the confirmands throughout the year.

Acolytes: Salwan Ashoo, Adam Devlin, Steve Pinter, Ryan True, Ryan Webb

Ushers: Clementine Jolley, Eli Ford, Grace Clopton, Noah Devlin, Luke Webb, Matthew Chon, Anthony Herring

About Hannah Jakubiak: Hi! My name is Hannah Jakubiak and I am a senior at West Bloomfield High School. I will be attending Michigan State University in the fall for nursing through the Honors College! I have grown up coming to Kirk in the Hills and have made so many amazing memories here. Kirk is my like my second home. I attended preschool here and later brought my best friends where we together participated in Youth Group, Mission Trips, choir, and of course acolyting. I was also a Youth Elder and have had so many great opportunities through the church. I am so grateful to have grown up around this loving community while growing my faith in God. I am excited for this new chapter in my life and look forward to what God has in store for me!

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Deacon Flower Ministry: If you or someone you know needs a little cheering up, our Deacon flower ministry has bud vases each Sunday in the narthex. Please take a flower to remind someone of God's love or to remind yourself of the same.

Camera and Phone Usage Guidelines: Out of respect for your fellow worshipers and those leading worship, we kindly ask you to silence cellphones and other communication devices and to refrain from taking photos or video during worship. Recordings of past worship services and other sanctuary events are available at kirkinthehills.org/worship/past-messages.